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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1646**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/901,556
Applicant : Hötten et al.
Filed : September 24, 1999
TC/A.U. : 1646
Examiner : P. Mertz

Docket No. : 2923-286
Customer No. : 06449
Confirmation No. : 3191

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

June 17, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Office action of April 15, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.